

Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2019
3:00 p.m. – Public Session
Roy C. Ketcham HS - Library

Legislative Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloshower (arrived at 3:25 p.m.), John Lumia, Allison Conti, Cheryl Migatz, Alberta Pedro, Marla Litsky (JJ), Corey Valle (RCK)

Public: There was one member of the public was present.

1. Chairman Rob Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Welcome Student Members -
Marla and Corey were welcomed by the Chairman of the Legislative Action Committee. Marla shared that she is a student at John Jay where she is the President of the John Jay Student Government, Treasurer for the History Honor Society, in the Glee Club and the Math Honor Society. Marla is a senior in high school. Corey is a student at Roy C. Ketcham High School. While he is not in any clubs he is interested in participating on the Legislative Action Committee.

Motion to approve Marla and Corey as student members of the Legislative Action Committee.

Motion by Cheryl Migatz, second by Allison Conti.

Yes: Rob Rubin, John Lumia, Allison Conti, Cheryl Migatz

Not Present: Eddy Sloshower

Motion Carried.

Please note that Marla was approved as a student member of the committee at the October 18 meeting.

3. Approve Minutes - The Committee reviewed the October 18 minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 18 meeting.

Motion by Cheryl Migatz, second by John Lumia.

Yes: Rob Rubin, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz

Abstain: Allison Conti

Not Present: Eddy Slosower
Motion Carried.

4. Review Board Position Letters

A. Mandatory Vaccination for HPV - The Committee reviewed each letter and provided input. The Bill amends the Public Health Law to mandate the HPV vaccination for students to attend school. Individuals may have an opinion for or against it but this letter addresses the bill mandating the HPV vaccine in order to attend school. There is a distinct difference between this vaccine and the other mandated vaccines as there is a completely different transmission process, as it is transmitted through sexual contact, and students who are not vaccinated against HPV are not a health risk to other students in the classroom. In addition, it is a relatively newer vaccine. The Committee felt the decision to vaccinate for HPV is a parent/child decision. This is also an unfunded mandate. The Committee discussed the mixed message this is sending to the students as it makes it seem as if having sex is safer for teens or may encourage teens to have sex.

Motion to amend the HPV letter to add a cc: to the Dutchess County School Boards Association.

Motion by Rob Rubin, second by Allison Conti.

Yes: Rob Rubin, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Not Present: Eddy Slosower

Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the HPV letter, as amended.

Motion by Cheryl Migatz, second by Allison Conti.

Yes: Rob Rubin, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Not Present: Eddy Slosower

Motion Carried.

Student commented that students will not be thinking about this virus as a deterrent to having sex.

B. Hemp letter - During the vaping conference held recently, it was discussed that there are no health issues in relation to the growing of HEMP. The Committee discussed the language in the draft letter, specifically paragraph 2, "parents with students with health issues".

Public Comment: The smell doesn't cause health issues but there are other issues like migraines, headaches, and nausea. In addition to the smell in the classrooms and the fact that hemp smell similar to marijuana, wonders about a dog's ability in a drug investigation in the school.

Motion to extend time by 10 minutes.

Motion by Cheryl Migatz, second by John Lumia.

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloslower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Motion Carried.

Motion to amend the hemp letter as follows:

1. Strike the comma in the first paragraph, line 2
2. Strike the semicolon in the first paragraph line 4 and replace with a comma
3. Strike the word "with" in paragraph 2 line 4 and replace with "of"

Motion by Cheryl Migatz, second by John Lumia

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloslower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Motion Carried.

Motion to amend the letter to add Supervisor Nicholas D'Alessandro, Town of East Fishkill to the letter as both of the farms are in the Town of East Fishkill, and to cc the Dutchess County School Boards Association

Motion by Eddy Sloslower, second by Allison Conti

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloslower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Motion Carried.

Students asked if there was anything that can be done legally to stop the hemp farms. Unfortunately no, it is a pilot program approved by NYS. Farmers can grow on their land. This letter was to take into consideration the proximity of the location of a hemp farm to a school or within a certain distance.

Motion to approve the Hemp letter to be forwarded to the Board of Education, as amended.

Motion by Allison, second by Eddy Sloslower

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti,
Marla Litsky, Corey Valle
Motion Carried.

C: School Safety Officers Exemption of Salaries from the Tax Cap - Assistant Superintendent Lolkema chairs the District Safety Committee and has been working with Assemblyman Kieran Lalor on a Bill which is sitting on the desk in Albany waiting for signature. The Bill allows school districts to hire SROs and the salary would be exempt from the tax cap calculation.

Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

Motion by Cheryl Migatz, second by Allison Conti.

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti,
Marla Litsky, Corey Valle
Motion Carried.

This Bill would not mandate the exclusion of the SRO salary from the tax cap but if a school district needs the SRO they should be able to hire an SRO and not be penalized.

The Committee discussed the second paragraph of the letter where it indicates “provide our special education students” in paragraph 2, as it affects the district’s ability to deliver meaningful instruction to all students.

Motion by John Lumia to amend the letter to strike “to provide our special education students with the resources and staff they need to successful”, and insert the word “to” as follows: “...it should not come at the expense of our district’s ability to deliver meaningful instruction to all students and to offer school-related activities to our students,” and add Dutchess County School Boards Association as a cc, second by Allison Conti.

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti,
Marla Litsky, Corey Valle
Motion Carried.

5. Discuss Other Focus Areas

There is a charter for the Legislative Action Committee, which was approved by the Board of Education in July. The Committee needs to establish an agenda or focus areas for the work this year, which must be Board approved. Committee

members are asked to submit agenda items during the week to Chairman Rob Rubin via email. Mr. Rubin will send them to everyone as a finalized list.

Mr. Lumia clarified that next year, before the Board approves the charter for any ad hoc committee the goals/work of the Committee should be defined and included in the charter before approval by the Board of Education.

Mrs. Conti shared pending legislation that would allow teachers to become certified in reading services while they get their degree. This would benefit children and the District. Mrs. Conti will research the pending legislation and share it with the Committee members...this may be a potential goal. Chairman Rubin suggested that the Committee invite Mr. Zipp to discuss from a legal standpoint. Mrs. Conti shared that she did not see the need as other administrators were not invited to the meeting to discuss other items on the agenda. Chairman Rubin withdrew his suggestion.

Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

Motion by Eddy Slosower, second by Rob Rubin.

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Motion Carried.

The District Clerk provided clarification on ad hoc committees and the work for the year. **Standing committees** are those committees that run on a continual basis. **Ad hoc committees** are formed for a limited period of time to address a specific need. When the work of the ad hoc committee is completed, the committee is dissolved. An ad hoc committee may exist for less than a year or for a year or more depending on the extent of the work assigned to it. The Board of Education approves the work of any ad hoc committee.

Other Business

Mr. Slosower asked to re-address the HPV letter. There are two other bills pending which could be added to this letter: Bill S3899/A973 which allows for treatment of sex transmitted diseases to boys and girls as young as 9 years old as well as the administration of the HPV vaccine without parent knowledge or consent; and Bill S2276/A2316, which allows for the mandatory flu shot for children to attend daycare.

The Committee discussed that these Bills are relevant because these are our students before they enroll in the district. This would also apply to students participating in Early Intervention and CPSE.

Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

Motion by Rob Rubin, second by Eddy Slosower.

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Marla Litsky, Corey Valle

Motion Carried.

Motion to amend the HPV letter to include the two additional Bills.

Motion by Allison Conti, second by John Lumia

Yes: Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, John Lumia, Cheryl Migatz, Allison Conti, Corey Valle

No: Marla Litsky

Motion Carried.

6. Schedule next meeting date - Alberta will send a doodle survey to the Committee members in order to schedule the next meeting in January. Corey shared that RCK at 3:00 p.m. is best for him.
7. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.